

## ABSTRACT

A stochastic codebook 103 associates a pulse position of a predetermined channel with a pulse position 5 of another channel, searches for a pulse position by means of a predetermined algorithm, and outputs a code combining a found pulse position with a polarity code to an excitation vector creation section 104 as a stochastic excitation vector code. By this means, it is possible to secure 10 variations so that there are no positions where there is no pulse at all while achieving a reduction of the number of bits used when coding stochastic codebook pulses in order to attain a lower bit rate.